

September 10, 2018

SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA

The Scranton School Board of Directors held a regular board meeting on Monday, September 10, 2018 at 7:00pm prevailing time in the auditorium of Scranton High School, 63 Munchak Way, Scranton, PA.

President Dixon called the meeting to order at 7:10pm with a Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Roll Call: By the Secretary.

Present: Directors Casey, Cagnetti, Duffy, Gilmartin, Lesh, McAndrew, Schuster and President Dixon.

Absent: Director Oleski.

President Dixon announced for informational purposes that items J5, J6 and J7 have been pulled from the agenda and will not be voted on this evening.

Solicitor's Report (Attorney Colbassai filled in for Attorney Minora)

Attorney Colbassani announced executive sessions were held on August 6, 2018, August 13, 2018, August 27, 2018 and this evening September 10, 2018.

Director Cagnetti informed Mr. Colbassani that an executive session was **not** held on August 13, 2018; that it was cancelled.

A motion to amend the agenda to include the Scranton High School Presentation was made by Director Casey, seconded by Director Gilmartin and passed unanimously on roll call.

Mr. John Coyle, Principal, Scranton High School introduced 11th grade students Priyal Patel and Aaliyah Jalil, and Maggie Martinelli, Director of Administration Projects, Scranton Area Community Foundation.

Ms. Jaleel and Ms. Patel were given the opportunity to apply for a program allowing them to enroll as college students at Lackawanna College to earn their Associates Degree before graduating from high school. Both girls were accepted into that program and are currently full time high school and college students.

Ms. Maggie Martinelli, Director of Administration Projects at Scranton Area Community Foundation oversees the mission known as Women in Philanthropy which are leaders in the community and offers support that provides transformational change to young women and girls in the area.

Ms. Martinelli was thrilled to announce that Aliyah and Prial each will receive their Associate Degrees at no charge to them. Ms. Martinelli offered well wishes to the girls and congratulated them for being selected in this prestigious program.

September 10, 2018

Dr. Kirijan thanked Mr. Coyle and also extended congratulations to Aliyah and Prial.

Report from PSBA Representative

Director Cognetti reported that there will be a School Leadership Conference held in Hershey on October 17 through October 19, 2018 and PSBA sent an email reminder of their website Success Starts Here available for district to submit positive stories. Dr. Kirijan responded that stories are submitted and whether they are published is up to PSBA.

Director Cognetti also spoke of the Fair Education Funding Lawsuit in Commonwealth Court representing districts and families who are challenging the equity of education across the economic spectrum in Pennsylvania and is yet another piece of the puzzle and hopefully there will be more effective advocacy in Harrisburg and Mrs. Cognetti also hopes that the board can speak together with the SFT about planning a lobbying day this fall in Harrisburg perhaps after the election.

Soccer Field Presentation

Tom McClain, Landscape architect, Dave Bulzoni, Scranton City Business Administrator and Jim Bell, Scranton Shock representative provided sketches to the board; they propose to develop a professional level and professional size dimensional soccer field where the current soccer field is now and the footprint of the current softball field. The project would provide additional parking that would benefit not only the high school but any events happening at the Heritage trail as well, and not only a sporting project but economic development.

Mr. McClain said that in order to do this they would need the assistance of the Scranton School District by moving the current baseball field from that current location to across the main campus.

Dave Bulzoni, Scranton City Business Administrator explained that this project started out two years ago when Mr. James Bell approached them with the idea of locating a field in the city. Mr. Bulzoni echoed Mr. McLain of the project also an economic development for the city and very beneficial to the city and school district. Mr. Bulzoni mentioned there are other locations being looked at, sufficient funding resources and revenues that are underway and also help of the city's grant writer. Mr. Bulzoni also said that the only way the project could work is if the softball field is relocated which is included in the sketches provided to the board.

Director Casey commented that it looks like an amazing project however he remembered that when the turf was resurfaced at Scranton High it was from overuse and it looks like by moving the softball field to the proposed site location it would move practice times for athletes and asked if this will impact our athletes' practices.

Dr. Kirijan said Mr. Jeff Brazil is working on that.

September 10, 2018

Mr. Brazil said it is all a matter of scheduling and the field would be a multipurpose field and would be utilized by Lackawanna College and our own teams; he doesn't believe the soccer schedule would interfere.

Director Casey asked if our football team would be able to utilize the facility for practices.

Mr. Brazil said they should be able or they can go back to where they used to practice.

Director Schuster asked if there is enough room for a practice football field.

Mr. Brazil said it used to be used for practices; the extension would not affect that.

Director Casey asked if our coaches would have access and keys to the facilities.

Mr. Brazil said maintenance would be maintaining the field.

Director Casey asked if West Scranton will also be able to utilize the facilities and informed that all of that is still up for discussion.

Director Duffy asked what the expected cost is to the district.

Mr. Bulzoni said discussions could last all night about the costs and benefits but without the possibility of creating the space then it is a moot point and that the first thing the Scranton School District would want to look at is whether that space can be created efficiently, then a more detailed discussion can take place on the costs associated with the construction, maintenance and sources of funding adding that it is premature to get into the costs if they are unsure of a location.

Mr. Bulzoni continued to say that they are looking at this as a partnership with the city taking the lead in creating sufficient funding sources in order to make it happen and there are already some funding sources that are committed to the project and would assist with the maintenance but first have to find out if this is viable.

Director Schuster questioned the cost at this proposed site.

Mr. McClain said that if they're looking at terms of build out costs it is over \$1.3 million and includes the locker facilities although these are concept level numbers but they are asking the district to proceed with determining if it is feasible or not adding that this corridor is the future of Scranton.

Director Schuster asked if moving the softball field is included in that projected \$1.3 million and Mr. McClain said yes that is just the cost to move the facility.

Director Casey asked if they are looking at grants.

September 10, 2018

Mr. McClain said is really the only it can occur – there has to be funding to offset the costs and the city is certainly not in the position to write out a check for this project but given the makeup of the participants he thinks there is a great degree of eligibility and they are fairly confident that grant funding would be available to assist and there is some money set aside for the relocation of the softball field and the fact that they would be using the turf that has been previously used would obviously save on some of the funding and they have already evaluated the turf and it is in excellent condition. There are a number of things to look at to make this financially feasible and it is now more of a matter of getting the green light to proceed then discussions can be held to really make it work.

Director Casey asked if there is a timetable.

Mr. McClain said everything is a process, nothing gets done immediately but he thinks after discussions with more detail then a timeline can be drawn up.

Mr. Bell said that once they get the green light for moving the softball field then they can get down to the nitty gritty of the budget which will take a little time and then contact PENNDOT as far as roadways and parking, once everything is said and done to put a turf field in is sixty days, once permits and everything is done, could take up to a year or more.

Mr. McClain said it is at least a two year time frame for this to happen.

Director Cognetti asked what the timeframe is for the school district before they start looking elsewhere.

Mr. McClain said a timeline has not been established and haven't looked at the other site very closely because they thought this location would be the best and they won't investigate that until they conclude discussions with the district.

Director McAndrew also thinks this is a great idea but believes it should be at no cost district.

Mr. McClain mentioned that this would generate revenue for the district as well and to keep in mind that this project would be very beneficial to the district, there is sufficient revenue that would accrue to the district and certainly having the ability to provide that type of field for the students to play on would be beneficial and obviously when we get into the numbers, you're going to want to look more closely if the benefit is worth the cost.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Alexis Kirijan is pleased to welcome back faculty and staff, administration and parents. Impeccable planning and coordination has gone into preparation for the 18/19 school year and commended all employees to ensure a smooth Day One. Dr. Kirijan announced that over 10,000 students were welcomed back including 477 three and four year olds and there has been an influx of students coming from charters, cyber and private schools.

September 10, 2018

Dr. Kirijan admitted to some glitches on the first day namely Armstrong was not ready to open due to air quality issues and the new online registration that was implemented had some issues, the problems have been identified and are being addressed.

Scranton Day One Presentation

Ms. Erin Keating, Chief of Leadership Development and School Operations, reported on summer school, Apex, Summer Literacy Program with the United Way, creating new Homeschool protocols, Master Schedule Building, partnerships with local agencies and organizations to support homeless and foster students, partnered with the Wright Center and Scranton Primary, Moses Taylor Foundation for School Based Health and the transition to Winter Online Credit Recovery as approved in the 2018 budget.

SEE ATTACHMENT #1 

After receiving no questions from the board Mrs. Melissa McTiernan, Chief Academic Officer reported on the following:

Curriculum and Instruction including the Weinberg Expansion Grant and the Salvadori Program, Women's Resource Center partnership, the evaluation tool "On Track Indicator", Johnson College dual enrollment opportunities for students, "Second Step" curriculum (purchased with Moses Taylor Foundation Grant), Middle School Related Arts revisions, Federal Programs including Title I, ID, II, IV, Business Office electronic purchasing procedure, Secretary's Title I handbook and training, Title I teacher training, Signature Day of Caring \$60,000 Grant to McNichols Plaza, English Language Development and the program Here For A Reason which provides meals for children and families in selected schools.

SEE ATTACHMENT #2 

Director Cognetti said with regards to middle school programming there was a speaker back in August who commented about instruments in the schools and wanted to hear more about that because she didn't think that by cutting down the number of periods that they were no longer going to have instruments at all.

Mrs. McTiernan said they would have to incorporate that into the general music class and the instruments were not taken away but there is no longer a band or strings class.

Director Cognetti asked if there are instruments in the classrooms.

Mrs. McTiernan said that nobody took the instruments out of the classrooms; they would have to incorporate that into their classroom.

Director Cognetti asked if there was anything else that happened from the curriculum meeting that the board should know about, she hasn't received any update and asked if there have been any issues with them.

September 10, 2018

Mrs. McTiernan responded that she let the curriculum council meeting and all of the items on this slide is what they talked about and asked Director Cognetti if there was something in particular she was asking about.

Director Cognetti said that she doesn't hear anything until she attends these meetings and hears only from the public speakers and if no issues with the committee meetings then that's great.

Mrs. McTiernan said the only discussion she can recall was the Elevation program which was under the ELD that was purchased and they were going to have that at all of the schools which is part of Data/Monitoring and the additional instructional strategy piece that will be in the high schools and simply because they didn't have enough money to purchase for all of the schools so they are going to pilot it in the high schools and that was much of the discussion that took place on that and there were some questions about where we're spending the Title money which was addressed on the original slide. There was no discussion on the middle school curriculum because she asked for curriculum members in June and didn't receive the names until June, a week before school started so as far as the music question she doesn't know what Director Cognetti.

President Dixon said we're going to have quarterly updates on middle schools so we can monitor them.


Mr. Bert Gentilezza, Chief Compliance Officer, presented his report on Compliance and Accountability as indicated in *ATTACHMENT #3*. 

Director Cognetti questioned the number of discipline hearings and felt the number seems low given the size of the district and student population.

Mr. Gentilezza explained that these are the numbers of the more serious infractions and does not include incidents such as routine disciplines, behaviors, cutting class, etc.

Director Cognetti questioned the sports cuts and asked if the \$28,000 saved is accurate.


Mr. Gentilezza said yes and that Mr. Pat Laffey will have more detail in his report adding that we're only part way through, he thinks the Athletic Directors did a great job and they're looking to trim as much as they can.

Mrs. Sharon Baddick, Director of Special Education and Support Services reported on Extended School Year 2018, Procedural Updates, Program Enhancements and Public Relations as highlighted in *ATTACHMENT #4*. 

Director Casey asked if there has been any new interest from other districts regarding Electric City Academy.

Mrs. Baddick said that there has been some interest and the district were very impressed with the facility and the aesthetic improvements, there are a number of potential students and right now we have six out of district placements at Monticello and one at Lincoln Jackson Academy.

September 10, 2018

Mr. Bill Gaynord, Chief Human Resources Officer commented that it has been a very difficult summer and reported to the board what may be repeated updates since there have been ongoing discussions with the board, the number of staff transfers, call backs, resignations, new hires, interviews and furloughs. Mr. Gaynord also spoke of grievances and arbitrations, unemployment and workers compensation hearings, policy reviews, Rapid Response Meeting, exit interviews, the bidding process, Kelly Services, certification approvals, Level II approvals and loan forgiveness. *SEE ATTACHMENT #5* 

Director Cognetti asked, with regards to the sixteen furloughed teachers, nine are working as long term subs and seven have chosen not to work with the district?


Mr. Gaynord agreed.

Director Cognetti confirmed with Mr. Gaynord that all sixteen individuals had an opportunity to work in some capacity with the district.

Director Cognetti asked if there were any administration resignations or new hires in administrative roles.

Mr. Gaynord responded there were two; the West Scranton High School principal and the McNichols Plaza principal.

Director Cognetti confirmed with Mr. Gaynord they were replacements and not new hires.

Mr. Jeff Brazil, Chief Operations Officer, recapped summer operations, ongoing projects and improvements throughout the district as indicated in *ATTACHMENT #6*. 

Director Casey asked if the work that is being done at Whittier Elementary is in the building that we own or in the dioceses' building.


Mr. Brazil said it is in our own building.

Director Cognetti asked if there was any way to work with the Title Manager to secure grants for the Bolo sticks and two way radios, if there is any way to use Capital Improvement funds so they can get them in the schools and start utilizing them and when they receive the grant money they can replace the funds back in Capital Improvements.

Mr. Brazil said that we already have the Bolo sticks and the objective is to do Northeast Intermediate and then West Scranton.

Mr. Pat Laffey, Business Manager, reported on the 2019 Preliminary Budget preparation and adoption, RFQs for professional services, Copier consultant review and bid specifications, CSIU training including budget preparation features, electronic purchase orders and utilization of the Accounts Receivable function for district buildings. Mr. Laffey also touched on State and

September 10, 2018

Federal Reporting, Day to Day operations of the business office, Summer Food Service Program and the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program. *SEE ATTACHMENT #7* 

Director Schuster questioned the RFQs that were put out for professional services, and with regards to the Salary Reduction Benefits Administrator, are there savings by putting that out for bid and asked Mr. Laffey to explain.

Mr. Laffey said that is the administrator of our 403b and 457 plans for the district, the vendor that responded and is presented for your consideration this evening is at no cost to the district, it is a service that we used to pay for in the past and they act as a “pass through” to investment companies and the response received from them was no cost.

Dr. Kirijan thanked President Dixon for allowing the administrators to update the board and they will continue to update as they move along.

Mrs. Dixon thanked everyone and the information was very helpful.

Director Cognetti asked Dr. Kirijan if she could give them an update on the \$6 million received from the state and when they will be meeting to discuss those parameters.

Dr. Kirijan said there is a meeting this week with PFM to begin discussions on how they will approach that and how it will be implemented but as soon as she knows she will be sure the board is aware; she doesn't have a date yet.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Pat Festa, SFT, expressed his dissatisfaction of where the district is heading and during the current tenure of this senior administration team the district has endured in his opinion an unnecessary eleven day work stoppage, put forth elementary school proposals that would have severely impacted access to programs, reduced graduation requirements, enacted a costly special education plan, waged a vicious attack on the CBA which negotiated in good faith, exorbitant number of grievances and arbitrations, severe shortage of substitute teachers and all the while the teaching staff has worked without a contract for a year.

Mr. Festa added that the teachers currently endure the burden of financial meltdown with further program cuts, the furloughs of needed staff and schedules that are unsafe, unrealistic and the elimination of the library programs.

Mr. Festa agreed that more equitable state funding is needed he disagrees on the use of the \$6 million grant award by Harrisburg on top of the \$2 million already received as it states on the website the money will be used to enhance literacy, mathematics, STEAM training, etc, the hypocrisy in that statement in light of the cuts just mentioned is absolutely stunning.

Mr. Festa offered his ideas such as ensure a teacher's contract, restore library science immediately, restore related arts, bring back graduation requirements and restore the morale and integrity in our schools.

September 10, 2018

Rosemary Boland, SFT President, disagreed with administration regarding the request for committee names over the summer saying that she cannot put people on committees when they haven't taught the subjects.

Ms. Boland expressed that there has been severe damage to this district and she is sure they will never get back the personnel that is so desperately needed.

Ms. Boland informed the board and administrators there was a lot of calamity that happened on Day One, there were lines throughout all the schools over the first two days, guidance is short staffed and she suggests they get in touch with the employees so they can tell you how they are dealing with the 10,000 + population.

Suzanne Furey, 1st grade teacher at Armstrong spoke of the inability to open school on the first day due to mold issues and requested to see the report and what was actually done at Armstrong, the teachers would like some assurance and not have to deal with it again.

Mrs. Furey expressed concern of the reduction of high school graduation requirements, the reduction of history and math requirements, the physical education requirement changes at the high school level, no band or instruments at the intermediate level, no summer reading, no languages, no hall monitors at the intermediate level, shorter preschool days, early intervention is vital and the chaos of four classes of students in the hallways at the same time and urged the board to reconsider what they are doing to the children.

Director Casey asked Dr. Kirijan if they can get some information to the staff at Armstrong, some assurance and peace of mind of the air quality.

Dr. Kirijan asked Jeff Brazil if the air quality test came back clean.

Mr. Brazil said that it did.

Dr. Kirijan asked Mr. Brazil if he can get the results over to the principal tomorrow.

Mr. Brazil said he would but would rather wait for the copy from Guzek Associates that will have more detail to describe the results rather than the lab reports because people may not know how to read them, but he will provide what he has and also the report from Guzek when he receives it.

Holly Meade, Special Education teacher at Northeast Intermediate, spoke of a new novel she read that she felt should be available for students but will not be available for them because they do not have exposure to this type of reading.

Mrs. Meade spoke of a Corrective Reading class that is no longer available in middle schools even though it is required in their IEPs. The class no longer fits in the school's schedule, IEPs are going to be violated and under this leadership you are opening the door wide for more lawsuits.

September 10, 2018

Kevin Kays, SFT, said in his 20 years in this district he has never seen morale among professional staff so low, never heard so many teachers looking for jobs in other districts because they see no hope for step advancement.

Mr. Kays said that the SFTs original offer to accepting the fact finders report was a great concession on their part; there are districts around who are settling contracts and they're getting what the SFTs original offer was.

Mr. Kays spoke of the districts audits, the increase per year for professional staff, inflation is at 2%, the districts revenue has increased three times what the professional staff has gained, transportation is at 11% average per year and he doesn't see that changing much until 2022.

Mr. Kays spoke of money saved when the district took the option not to pay into retirement funds and went into paying about \$400,000 too much for health care and increasing bussing costs. Mr. Kays added that none of the transportation contracts say that they are the sole provider; it actually says that the Scranton School District at its discretion can reduce the number of buses and why isn't the district pursuing the \$4 million in questionable fuel charges.

Mr. Kays doesn't think it is fair that the professional staff should have to pay for all of the injustice that occurred in the past.

Chris Ort, teacher at West Scranton High School, complained of health issues in his classroom including asbestos in the floor and that he has complained and nothing has been done about it. He is concerned of his health and his students' health.

Director McAndrew asked Mr. Jeff Brazil to please look into Mr. Ort's concerns. Mr. Brazil said he will.

A motion was made by Director Casey to accept the meeting minutes of June 4, 2018, June 25, 2018, August 6, 2018, and August 27, 2018 and August 30, 2018; seconded by Director Gilmartin and passed unanimously on roll call.

Director Casey requested that Resolutions A-1 and N-1 be removed from the Consent Agenda. A-1 and N-1 were removed from the Consent Agenda.

Director Casey made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda, seconded by Director Duffy and passed unanimously on roll call. The items approved under Consent were A-2, B-3, B-4, B-5, D-1, I-1, I-2, M-1, M-2, P-1, P-2 and P-3. The items are detailed below.

Included in the Consent Agenda:

A-2

It is the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Athletics and Stadium Committee that the following resolution be approved:

September 10, 2018

WHEREAS, A local junior wrestling program organization the West Scranton JR Wrestling Club has requested the use of West Scranton High School's Wrestling Room for their practices and Scranton High School for their season matches for the 2018-19 season, and

WHEREAS, West Scranton JR Wrestling Club will be charged a reduced rental fee for the use of West Scranton High School's Wrestling Room for scheduled practices and pay for all maintenance fees for their scheduled season match dates at Scranton High School for the 2018-19 season-Monday, October 8, 2018 until Friday, March 1, 2019 (Monday, Thursday and Friday 6 PM-8 PM & Sunday matches (2) 9 AM-3 PM), and

WHEREAS, In exchange for the reduced rental fees for practices & season matches all Scranton School District students will participate in this program at a reduced rate. This savings accumulates to approximately \$1,200 for the students of the Scranton School District, and

WHEREAS, So that no scheduling conflicts occur, West Scranton JR Wrestling Club is to provide a detailed practice schedule and season match dates to the administration of West Scranton High School and Scranton High School, and

WHEREAS, West Scranton JR Wrestling Club is to provide proof of a Certificate of Insurance for liability purposes, and

WHEREAS, West Scranton JR Wrestling Club is responsible for the safety and conduct of its participants and spectators, and

WHEREAS, Adequate adult supervision must be provided by West Scranton JR Wrestling Club, and

WHEREAS, Access to facilities shall be limited to the specified area of West Scranton High School's Wrestling Room and Scranton High School gymnasium areas, and

WHEREAS, Alteration to the West Scranton High School's Wrestling Room and Scranton High School gymnasium area are prohibited, and

WHEREAS, Scranton School District owned equipment shall not be removed from the facility or loaned to West Scranton JR Wrestling Club, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED West Scranton JR Wrestling Club is allowed to use the West Scranton High School's Wrestling Room for practices and Scranton High School gymnasium for season matches during the 2018-19 season.

ALSO

B-3

It is the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Budget and Finance Committee that the following resolution be approved:

September 10, 2018

WHEREAS, In accordance with the Real Estate Tax Law any property not sold at Judicial Sale shall be listed in a Repository of Unsold Properties. The following properties have been sold and will be returned to a tax paying status with the Tax Claim Bureau:

Lesley Edwards	957 Johler Ave	Map No. 14507 060 011	\$4,600.00
Lisolette Baez	318 N. Van Buren Ave	Map No. 14509 020 012	\$1,764.74
Angelica Baez & Elpidio Baez	530 N. Decker Ct	Map No. 14514 080 008	\$2,230.00
Total Property Serv.	137 S. Sumner Ave	Map No. 14518 010 059	\$2,217.00
Girikrupa, LLC	1414 Monsey Ave	Map No. 14605 040 003	\$5,353.00
Lesley Edwards	1012 Oxford St	Map No. 15606 020 016	\$2,400.00
Angelica Baez	903 Eynon St	Map No. 15609 080 031	\$3,430.54
Lisolette Baez	905 Eynon St	Map No. 15609 080 032	\$2,700.00
HP102, LLC	700-702 Prescott Ave	Map No. 15706 030 018	\$5,125.00
James Gleason	539 N. Irving Ave	Map No. 15709 050 003	\$5,900.00
Robert Morris	637 Rr. Wales St	Map No. 12316 010 006	\$2,190.75
Gemini Lake	918-920 Green Ridge St	Map No. 13517 060 054	\$3,800.00
Make Scr. Great Again	214 Wheeler Ave	Map No. 15754 020 055	\$3,500.00
Robert Beckman	604 Ruth St	Map No. 13509 050 014	\$4,500.00
Robert Beckman	536 Deacon St	Map No. 13513 020 013	\$7,000.00
Total Property Serv.	1750 Nay Aug Ave	Map No. 13412 090 022	\$2,232.00
Rachelle Soussman	706 Prospect Ave	Map No. 15620 020 031	\$3,946.36

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the School District of the City of Scranton does hereby approve the above referenced properties for a repository sale pursuant to the real estate tax sale law and section 627 of said act. This resolution is subject to the approval of other taxing bodies.

ALSO

B-4

Be It Resolved that the Delinquent Tax Report for the month of JULY, 2018 be accepted. A copy of the monthly detail is available for review in the Business Office.

Tax	\$649,273.13
Penalty	\$ 56,925.17
Interest	<u>\$ 74,610.74</u>
TOTAL	\$780,809.04
Commission	<u>\$(39,040.87)</u>
NET TO DISTRICT	\$741,768.17

ALSO

B-5

The Superintendent of Schools and the Budget and Finance Committee present the following resolution for your consideration:

September 10, 2018

Be it resolved that the Treasurer’s Report for the period ending July, 2018 be accepted as follows:

Opening Balance	\$30,877,908.98
Monthly Revenue	\$ 5,598,649.87
Transfers and Refunds	\$ -
TOTAL AVAILABLE	\$36,476,558.85
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$15,342,194.76
	\$21,134,364.09

ALSO

D-1

The Superintendent and the Education Committee requests board approval of staff attendance to conferences and meetings for professional development relevant to their specific duties and responsibilities as per the attached.

Board approval is contingent upon the required approval of all supervisors, principals or administration.

	NAME	CONFERENCE/MEETING	LOCATION	COST
	9/10/2018			
1	Dennis Eagles	SCM Trainer Re-Certification	State College, PA	\$760.00
2	Sharon Baddick	PA Community on Transition Conference	State College, PA	\$721.83
3	Catherine Morton	N&D Symposium	Champion, PA	\$743.00
4	Thomas Egan	2018 N&D Symposium	Champion, PA	\$743.00
5	Molly Abdalla	PAFPC 2018 Summer Leadership Forum	Pittsburgh, PA	\$988.85
6	Joseph Hanni	Safe Crisis Management Recertification	Orefield, PA	\$582.00
7	Frederick Bresser	Oppositional, Defiant, & Disruptive Children	Webcast	\$99.00
8	Frederick Bresser	Malnutrition Summit 2018	Wilkes-Barre, PA	\$101.60
9	Erlin Keating	Providing Medical Services in School	Bethlehem, PA	\$61.15
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
18				
17				
19				
20				
21				
22				
23				
24				
25				
26				
27				
28				
29				
30				
31				
32				
33				
34				
35				
36				
37				
38				

ALSO

September 10, 2018

I-1

It is the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Policy Committee that the following resolution be approved:

WHEREAS, The following policies (210.1, 810, 810.1 & 818-second read) have been *revised* by the Pennsylvania School Board Association (PSBA), and

POLICY NUMBER	POLICY REVISIONS
Policy 210.1	Possession/Use of Asthma Inhalers/Epinephrine Auto-Injectors
Policy 810	Transportation
Policy 810.1	School Bus/School Vehicle Incident Information Form
Policy 818	Contracted Services

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Scranton School Board hereby approves revisions to Policy Numbers 210.1, 810, 810.1& 818 as a second read recommended by the Pennsylvania School Board Association (PSBA).

ALSO

I-2

It is the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Scranton School District School Board Policy Committee that the following resolution be approved:

WHEREAS, The following Board Operating Guideline 003-BOG-4 second read has been *revised* by the Scranton School District School Board Policy Committee, and

Board Operating Guideline NUMBER	Board Operating Guideline REVISIONS
Board Operating Guideline 003-BOG-4	Role of Directors and Superintendent in Governance and Management

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Scranton School Board hereby approves revisions to Board Operating Guideline Numbers 003-BOG-4 as a second read recommended by the Scranton School District School Board Policy Committee.

ALSO

M-1

THE SUPERINTENDENT AND BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE RECOMMEND THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION:

September 10, 2018

WHEREAS, the School District of the City of Scranton recognizes the need to provide parking for its employees at Northeast Intermediate School; and

WHEREAS, in order to fulfill this need the Board of Directors wishes to enter into a lease agreement with Coopers Seafood to rent 50 parking spaces at a rate of \$26.50 per space, per month for 9.5 months, commencing on September 3, 2018 and ending on June 20, 2019 at a cost of \$1,325.00 per month; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Scranton School Board of Directors authorizes the Superintendent to sign the attached lease agreement with Coopers Seafood to lease these 50 parking spaces, after the Solicitor has fully reviewed and approved such lease.

ALSO

M-2

THE SUPERINTENDENT AND BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE
RECOMMEND THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION:

WHEREAS, the School District of the City of Scranton recognizes the need to provide parking for its employees at Northeast Intermediate School; and

WHEREAS, in order to fulfill this need the Board of Directors wishes to enter into a lease agreement with Bethel AME Church to rent 25 parking spaces at a rate of \$25.00 per space, per month for 9.5 months, commencing on September 4, 2018 and ending on June 20, 2019 at a cost of \$625.00 per month; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Scranton School Board of Directors authorizes the Superintendent to sign the attached lease agreement with Bethel AME Church to lease these 25 parking spaces, after the Solicitor has fully reviewed and approved such lease.

ALSO

P-1

It is the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Transportation Committee that the following resolution be approved:

WHEREAS, the School District of the City of Scranton is required to transport certain students to the Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf (“WPSD”) and must enter into a contract to transport school children attending WPSD from its Camp Hill location to the Pittsburgh location at the start of the week; then back to Camp Hill at the end of the week ,and it is the responsibility of the Scranton School District to transport the student(s) to/from the Camp Hill location and the Scranton area; and

September 10, 2018

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Scranton School Board approves the contract with WPSD for the 2018-2019 School Year on the terms and conditions per the attached.

ALSO

P-2

The Superintendent and the Transportation Committee hereby recommends the following resolution for your consideration:

Whereas, the School District of the City of Scranton is required to transport certain students to the Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf; and

Whereas, in order to provide said transportation, the District must enter into contracts for the provision of the same,

Therefore, be it resolved that the attached contract with the Dallas School District and Scranton School District for the 2018-2019 school year be approved on the terms and conditions set forth in the contract attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

ALSO

P-3

The Superintendent and the Transportation Committee hereby recommends the following resolution for your consideration:

WHEREAS, the School District of the City of Scranton is required to transport one student to the Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf; and

WHEREAS, in order to provide said transportation, the District must enter into contracts for the provision of the same,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the attached contract for the 2018-2019 school year with Red Top Transportation be approved on the terms and conditions set forth in the contract attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

END CONSENT AGENDA

The following items were considered **non-consent** and voted separately.

ATHLETICS AND STADIUM COMMITTEE

The following was submitted by Director Casey.

September 10, 2018

A-1

It is the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Athletics and Stadium Committee that the following resolution be approved:

WHEREAS, A local junior swim program organization the Scranton Sea Knights has requested the use of Scranton High School's Pool for their practices and season tournaments for the 2018-19 season, and

WHEREAS, Scranton Sea Knights will be charged no rental fee for the use of Scranton High School's Pool for scheduled practices and season tournaments for the 2018-19 season-Monday, October 8, 2018 until Friday, March 1, 2019 (Monday through Friday-Monday, 6 PM-8 PM & Saturday Tournaments (4) 12 PM-6 PM), and

WHEREAS, In exchange for the no rental fees for practices & tournaments all Scranton School District students will participate in this program free of charge with no registration fee. This savings accumulates to approximately \$11,000 for the students of the Scranton School District, and

WHEREAS, Trained Lifeguards along with Sea Knight Coaches will oversee and supervise all practices and tournaments for the 2018-19 season, and

WHEREAS, So that no scheduling conflicts occur, Scranton Sea Knights is to provide a detailed practice schedule and tournament dates to the administration of Scranton High School, and

WHEREAS, Scranton Sea Knights is to provide proof of a Certificate of Insurance for liability purposes, and

WHEREAS, Scranton Sea Knights is responsible for the safety and conduct of its participants and spectators, adequate adult supervision must be provided by Scranton Sea Knights, and access to facilities shall be limited to the specified area of Scranton High School Pool area, and

WHEREAS, Alteration to the Scranton High School Pool area are prohibited and Scranton School District owned equipment shall not be removed from the facility or loaned to Scranton Sea Knights, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED Scranton Sea Knights is allowed to use the Scranton High School Pool for practices and tournaments during the 2018/19 season.

ON THE QUESTION:

Director Casey asked who is paying for the lifeguards. Mr. Gentilezza said the organization itself would pay for the lifeguards.

Director Casey made a friendly amendment for the resolution to reflect that.

**Friendly Amendment to include that the life guards will be paid for through the organization and not by Scranton School District.

The friendly amendment passed unanimously on roll call.

The resolution was seconded by Director Duffy and passed with seven (7) affirmative and one (1) abstention. Director Lesh abstained due to a relation of his is part of the Sea Knights team.

September 10, 2018

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

The following was submitted by Director Cognetti.

B-1

It is the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Budget and Finance Committee that the following resolution be considered:

The list of bill payments in accordance with the bill payment approval policy be approved as per the attached:

September 10, 2018	\$780,399.28
--------------------	--------------

The resolution was seconded by Director Casey and passed unanimously on roll call vote.

ALSO

The following was submitted by Director Cognetti.

B-2

It is the recommendation of the Superintendent and Budget and Finance Committee that the following resolution be considered:

The Exception Bill List as per the bill payment approval policy for the period ended September 10, 2018 be approved as per the attached:

Be it resolved that exception payments in the amount of \$3,271,648.01 have been paid in accordance with the approval payment policy.

August 10, 2018	\$ 553,030.76
August 24, 2018	\$ 957,762.72
September 7, 2018	\$1,760,854.53

Be it resolved that payrolls amounting to \$6,177,257.81 have been paid in accordance with the approval for payment policy.

August 9, 2018	\$1,916,286.74
August 23, 2018	\$1,868,302.32
September 7, 2018	\$2,392,668.75

The resolution was seconded by Director Casey and passed unanimously on roll call.

ALSO

September 10, 2018

POLICY COMMITTEE

It is the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Policy Committee that the following resolution be approved:

WHEREAS, The following policy 903-first read has been *revised* by the Scranton School District School Board Policy Committee, and

POLICY NUMBER	POLICY REVISIONS
Policy 903	Public Participation in Board Meetings

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Scranton School Board hereby approves revisions to Policy Number 903 as a first read recommended by the Scranton School District School Board Policy Committee.

Director Casey seconded.

ON THE QUESTION:

Director Schuster asked if this was recommended by PSBA.

Director Gilmartin didn't believe so and didn't recall discussion, and asked that this be tabled for further discussion and needs to be brought to the Policy Committee first.

Director Casey made a motion to table, seconded by Director Schuster and the resolution was tabled unanimously on roll call.

ALSO

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The following was submitted by Director Casey.

J-1

It is the recommendation of the Superintendent and Personnel Committee that the attached list of Appointments, Resignations and Leaves of Absences is approved.

Appointments are effective upon receipt of proper criminal records, immigration and medical and child abuse reports.

Salaries are in accordance with the Collective Bargaining Agreements.

RESIGNATIONS- PROFESSIONAL				
<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>EFFECTIVE DATE</u>	
Maki King	School Psychologist	Plaza, Kennedy, Bancroft	TBD	
Leah Losavich	Social Worker	Administration Building	8/29/2018	
Ellen Stoehr Finn	Grade 1	Willard	8/31/2018	
Angie Mera	Special Ed-Learning Support	Kennedy	9/7/2018	
Whitney Jones	School Psychologist	Armstrong	TBD	
Samantha Hayden	Guidance Counselor	West Scranton High School	6/30/2018	
Kalee Lee	Grade 4	Adams	8/31/2018	
Marissa Vaccaro	Grade 2	Kennedy	8/23/2018	
COACHING APPOINTMENTS				
<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>EFFECTIVE DATE</u>	<u>REPLACEMENT</u>
Scott Grecco	Cross Country Coach	West Scranton High School	8/1/2018	X
Paul Devine	Ass't Cross Country Coach	West Scranton High School	8/27/2018	X
Lak Sphabmixay	Ass't Soccer Coach-Boys	West Scranton High School	8/27/2018	X
Brad Turi	Ass't Soccer Coach-Girls	West Scranton High School	8/27/2018	X
LEAVE OF ABSENCE				
<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>EFFECTIVE DATE</u>	
Ashley Wilhite	Special Ed-Learning Support	Scranton High School	2018/2019 School Year	<u>LWOP</u>
Heather Jones	Grade 4	Isaac Tripp Elementary	9/4/2018-1-30-2019	<u>LWOP</u>
Ann Marie Nasser	Grade 9-English	Scranton High School	9/2018-2/2019	Sabbatical-ROH
Philip Duffy	Social Studies	Scranton High School	2018/2019 School Year	Sabbatical-ROH
COACHING RESIGNATION				
Paul Devine	Head Basketball Coach-Girls	Northeast Intermediate	8/27/2018	

September 10, 2018

RESIGNATIONS-PARAPROFESSIONALS				
Maura Russo	Emotional Support	Whittier Annex	9/4/2018	
James Piazza	Autistic Support	Morris Elementary	9/3/2018	
Allison Brudzinski	Paraprofessional	Whittier	8/15/2018	
Jane Shrive	Paraprofessional	Sumner	9/5/2018	
NON-PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS				
				REPLACEMENT
Linda King	Autistic Support	Adams	9/4/2018	X
Tamee Schipp	Kindergarten Para	Whittier Elementary	9/5/2018	X
Renee Tanner	Autistic Support	Whittier Elementary	9/4/2018	X
Kristara Kopicki	Life Skills	Plaza	9/4/2018	X
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LONG-TERM SUSTITUTE TEACHING ASSIGNMENTS				
Anna Tigue	Guidance Counselor	Scranton High School	9/4/2018-TBD	
Dominic Mazza	ESL	SSIS	9/4/2018-1/1/2019	
Mariah Sinkevich	Learning Support	SSIS	9/5/2018-1/2/2019	
Megan Ackoury	Grade 4	Armstrong	9/4/2018-1/31/2019	
Basil Bannister	English	Scranton High School	9/4/2018-1/30/2019	
Brianna Rice	Emotional Support	WSIS	9/4/2018-10/31/2018	
Stephanie Dutko	Emotional Support	Electric City Academy	9/4/2018-TBD	
Anne Conway	Grade 5	Sumner	9/6/2018-1/4/2019	
Kayla Harrington	Grade 4	Isaac Tripp	9/4/2018-1/30/2019	
Kyle Coslett	Social Studies	Scranton High School	9/14/2018-TBD	
Michael Tigue	Phys Ed	Scranton High School	9/4/2018-1/30/2019	
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PERMANENT SUBSTITUTE				

September 10, 2018

ASSIGNMENTS				
Joshua Watters	Phys Ed/ESL .8	WSHS/WSIS	2018/2019 School Year	
Laurie Burdette	Music	Electric City Academy	2018/2019 School Year	
Nicole Gillette	Grade 1	McNichols Plaza	2018/2019 School Year	
Tara Cummings	Grade 4	Kennedy	2018/2019 School Year	
Thomas Hirshler	Social Studies	Scranton High School	2018/2019 School Year	
PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS				REPLACE / NEW
Marc Loretto	Special Ed	WSIS	2018/2019 School Year	X
Stephanie Lynch	Art	Scranton High School	2018/2019 School Year	X
Bryn Stocki	Art	Elementary	2018/2019 School Year	X
Melinda Conforti	Grade 4	Adams	2018/2019 School Year	X
RESIGNATIONS NON-PROFESSIONAL				
Robert Noone	Maintenance	Isaac Tripp	8/10/2018	
Dorothy Macciocco	Maintenance	Floater	8/31/2018	

The resolution was seconded by Director Duffy and passed unanimously on roll call.

ALSO

The following was submitted by Director Casey.

J-2

The Superintendent of Schools and Personnel Committee present the following resolution for your consideration:

Whereas, the Scranton School District advertised for Requests for Qualifications for Architectural Services; and

Whereas, the Scranton School District has received competitive proposals from eight Architectural firms, which are summarized in the attached; and

Therefore be it resolved that the Scranton School Board hereby appoints Hunt Engineers and Architects as the Architect of Record for the Scranton School District at hourly rates between

September 10, 2018

\$60 to \$115 or project cost rates between 3.25%-4.25% and for having met all bid specifications. Service to begin on a date to be determined.

ON THE QUESTION:

Director Lesh asked where Hunt Engineers and Architects is located.

Dr. Kirijan responded Towanda, PA.

Director Cognetti questioned that the costs would sometimes be hourly or sometimes between 3.25%-4.25% and asked Mr. Laffey and Mr. Gretton that when the contract is worked out that the costs would be flushed out in more detail.

Director Schuster suggested that perhaps that language should be left out of the resolution and determined that later.

Director Schuster made a motion to leave out the hourly rates and percentages to be determined later. Director Duffy seconded and the motion to leave out the costs language passed with seven (7) affirmative and (1) one negative vote. Director Lesh voted in the negative.

FRIENDLY AMENDMENT:

Language of costs to be determined.

The resolution appointing Hunt Engineers and Architects as the Architect of Record now passed with seven (7) affirmative and one (1) negative. Director Lesh voted in the negative.

ALSO

The following was submitted by Director Casey.

J-3

The Superintendent of Schools and Personnel Committee present the following resolution for your consideration:

Whereas, the Scranton School District advertised for Requests for Qualifications for Engineering Services; and

Whereas, the Scranton School District has received competitive proposals from seven Engineering firms, which are summarized in the attached; and

Therefore be it resolved that the Scranton School Board hereby appoints Hunt Engineers and Architects as the Engineer of record for the Scranton School District at an hourly rate between \$60-\$115 and for having met all bid specifications. Service to begin on a date to be determined.

The resolution was seconded by Director Cognetti and passed with seven (7) affirmative and one (1) negative vote. Director Lesh voted in the negative.

September 10, 2018

ON THE QUESTION:

Director Schuster made a motion for friendly amendment to omit the rates; costs to be determined later. Director Casey seconded and the motion for friendly amendment passed with seven (7) affirmative and (1) one negative vote. Director Lesh voted negative.

FRIENDLY AMENDMENT:

Language of costs to be determined.

ALSO

The following was submitted by Director Casey.

J-4

The Superintendent of Schools and Personnel Committee present the following resolution for your consideration:

Whereas, the Scranton School District advertised for Requests for Qualification for Salary Reduction Benefits Administration; and

Whereas, the Scranton School District has received one competitive proposal for the service requested which includes the administration of the Districts 403(b) and 457(b) plans; and

Therefore be it resolved that the Scranton School Board hereby appoints TSA Consulting Group as the Salary Reduction Benefits and Plan Administrator for the Scranton School District at no cost to the District or its employees and for having met all bid specifications. Service to begin on a date to be determined.

The resolution was seconded by Director Duffy and passed unanimously on roll call.

ON THE QUESTION:

Director Duffy asked what the savings is for this service and Director Schuster confirmed that this was a service the district used to pay for.

Mr. Laffey confirmed about \$20,000 and yes that the district used to pay for this service.

ALSO

At this time, in regards to resolutions J-5, J-6 and J-7, Director Cognetti made a motion to pull applications for consideration for legal services due to the law firm that did not submit a completed application, they failed to disclose their conflicts of interest in full and she does not think they should consider that application.

Director Casey said that should be done under New Business.

September 10, 2018

SPECIAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The following resolution was submitted by Director Schuster.

N-1

WHEREAS, the School District of the City of Scranton is subject of administration proceedings and civil suits, wherein the appropriateness of the student's special education programs have been challenged or suits have been filed in the matters of

JB-ODR# 20699-17-18, MM-ODR# 20742-17-18, BG-ODR# 20047-17-18, CM-ODR #20050-17-18, LM-ODR# 20802-17-18, ZU-ODR# 20427-17-18, ZB and TP; and

WHEREAS, the parties have reached a settlement agreement in this matter upon the terms and conditions previously provided for your consideration; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the settlements as indicated above, be approved upon the terms and conditions as described, and the Superintendent or Directors of Special Education are hereby authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to consummate the matter.

The resolution was seconded by Director Casey and passed with five (5) affirmative and three (3) negative. Directors Casey, Duffy and Lesh voted in the negative.

NEW BUSINESS:

Director Cognetti spoke of the RFQ language that was discussed at length around August 6th and conflict of interest language in particular. Mrs. Cognetti said that one of the applications for Labor Counsel did not fully disclose their conflicts of interest, both political contributions and as counsel for one of the district's vendors and read aloud the requirements from RFQ and said she believes one of the applicants should not be considered and we should follow our own RFQ language and eliminate this proposal from the application process.

Director Cognetti made a motion to rescind that particular law firm's application. Director Gilmartin seconded the motion.

Director Lesh responded that since the board will be interviewing all the applicants, he would like to give all applicants consideration and be given the opportunity to answer those questions.

Director Cognetti disagreed and thinks the language was very clear as to the board wanting to know political contributions over the last five years and potential business conflicts of interest and one of the attorneys at that firm represents one of our vendors and their issues are still unresolved and thinks that their failure to disclose that is an indication that they're probably not the best suited firm for us to work with.

The motion failed with four (4) affirmative and four (4) negative votes.

September 10, 2018

At this time Director Duffy voiced concern of road work/construction going on near Isaac Tripp Elementary School and wondered if there are any problems with entry and exit from that building in the event of an emergency.

Mr. Jeff Brazil said he reached out to the Director of Transportation, Kathleen Bevilacqua, and he will also reach out to the police and fire department.

Director Schuster asked Mr. Brazil if the upcoming paving projects in that area will interfere with traffic congestion at the school. Mr. Brazil said he would look in to that also.

Director Schuster asked if the traffic issues have improved overall at Tripp. Mr. Brazil said they have.

Director Schuster spoke of recent outing at Rail Riders game and suggested the school district join forces with them.

President Dixon now thanked the senior team for keeping them up to date, looking forward to working with PFM to help guide them on the road to fiscal solvency and looks forward to working with all of you and wished everyone a great school year.

There being no further business a motion to adjourn was made by Director Casey, seconded by Director Duffy and the meeting adjourned at 9:55pm.

By: _____
Secretary